

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 61

January 2014

No. 1



## Calendar

Fri., Dec. 20	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place	Mon., Jan. 13	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Wed., Dec. 25	Happy Holidays; no Citizens Assoc. meeting	Tues., Jan. 14	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Jan. 4	Large item pickup	Fri., Jan. 17	Film Society, <i>Searching for Sugar Man</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 5)
Mon., Jan. 6	Christmas tree and monthly yard waste collection; Art at Penn Place: Tim Ruane (through February 1); meeting of SRTS citizen advisory committee, Town Office, 7:30 pm (p 5)	Fri., Jan. 24	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> from table in PO Lobby
		Sat., Jan. 25	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6 pm (see p 2)

## Wintry Mix

The Garrett Park Town Council met Monday, December 9, the day after a wintry mix and the day before a government-closing snowstorm. But the mix of sentiments expressed by residents at the meeting was a bit warmer and fuzzier (but mixed nonetheless).

The evening started off with a visit from most of our Maryland delegation—both incoming and outgoing (Garrett Park has been redistricted, and will soon be represented by the District 18 delegation)—as town residents had a chance to schmooze with them over coffee and dessert. Several legislators (Senators Rich Madaleno (Dist. 18) and Jennie Forehand (Dist. 17) and Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher (Dist. 18)) were able to stick around for at least the start of the Town Council meeting, and were able to say a few words and answer a few questions for Garrett Parkers.

At 7:50 pm, the meeting proper commenced, beginning with an approval of the minutes. Then came time for the presentations by residents. The issue of the day still concerned the proposed sidewalks under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Act. Of the nearly two dozen residents attending the meeting, about half spoke. There were impassioned pleas and handouts on both sides of the

issue, the best-graphics award going to a four-color diagram on card stock, surveying affected homeowners' opinions.

Concerns among those opposing the sidewalks included the risk of altering the character of the town; whether there was adequate compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (the "§106 review"); whether there is a need for sidewalks; the risk to trees and other environmental considerations; whether alternatives were properly considered; and whether sidewalks in fact make the street *less* safe for children and other living things.

Advocates for the sidewalks, who pointed out that they, too, were passionate about the nature and character of the town, offered the Council and attendees examples of the dangers of walking on Oxford Street. There are designs out there, some speakers observed, that can minimize any damage to trees and the environment. And, to the extent that there is some inconvenience or damage, it is a small price to pay for the safety of our children and the elderly.

A representative of the SRTS citizens advisory committee—which has been meeting to help procure design proposals and is charged with ensuring that the ideas and concerns of town residents are heard and presented to the town

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

[www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov)

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administration as it manages the SRTS project—also addressed the Council and attendees, inviting anyone with an opinion to contact them at [garrett-park-sidewalk-advisory-committee-2013@googlegroups.com](mailto:garrett-park-sidewalk-advisory-committee-2013@googlegroups.com).

After all the residents who wanted to speak had made their presentations, the Mayor offered a few comments. He stated at the outset that the town has been working with all relevant officials regarding the \$106 review. He noted that there was nothing for the Council to actually decide this evening; it had already approved, at a previous meeting, moving forward with a preliminary design to determine what the sidewalks might be like and what impact they may have. That, the Mayor continued, should give the Council the basis for an informed discussion of their costs and benefits. When we have that information, he added, it will be presented to the public for comment and then the Council will decide whether to proceed with the project.

Gene Swearingen, the Town Manager, has been meeting with adjacent property owners. (To date, he had met with about 80 percent of them.) The town, he explained, will have a detailed design so that all affected property owners will know how the plan affects their properties.

After an hour or so, the Council moved on to the rest of the agenda. In that 15-minute coda, the Town Manager reported, among other things, that the town’s general-fund revenues are slightly ahead of projection (hooray!) and that total expenditures are below projections (hooray again!). Over the coming weeks, he said, recommendations for midyear budget revisions for Council consideration will be developed. An ordinance would then be introduced at the January Council meeting, and voted upon for potential approval at the February meeting.

The Town Manager also reported that fall pruning, which includes some tree removal, has begun. Also, there seems to be very little ice damage so far this year, perhaps due to past pruning.

Finally, he reported that the town is working to resolve problems with the Shelley Court storm water design. Lest we think this is money down the drain (he didn’t put it in those terms), we fully expect the engineering firm that worked on it to cover at least some portion of the cost of that resolution (he did say that part).

Randy Auerbach

## Green Again

Florence Gootenberg donated money for this month’s green banner in honor of her husband “Santa” Roy. As of now, we are solvent until the start of April, 2014. Anyone else like to join in the “greening” of Garrett Park? If so, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

## Citizens Association News

*Save the date!* The annual Town Dinner will be on January 25, starting at 6 pm. The theme this year is “This is why we can’t have nice things.” It’s time to spread some stories of things that have gone awry: tales of pets, children, or other craziness that has led us to wonder how things went so wrong. The 2014 officers of the Citizens Association will be elected at the dinner. If you are interested in joining the board or in helping out with the CA or you want to RSVP for dinner, please contact Michael Lutkenhouse.

We are working on spring events around gardening, safety, and more. Watch for a notice in the Post Office and a note on the listserv.

*Future meetings.* Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Michael Lutkenhouse or send a note to Box 456.

*Garrett Park listserv.* Our neighborhood is made up of people with a variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. This electronic forum lets neighbors communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (contractors, lawn care, doctors, babysitters...). It will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join).

*Questions or comments for the Citizens Association?* If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Michael Lutkenhouse.

Lori Conlan

## Yard Sale

It’s that time of year again!

The Biennial Garrett Park Townwide Yard Sale will happen again this spring. So start saving your stuff. Details to follow. (Brought to you by the Garrett Park Women’s Club.)

Caroline Turner

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**  
President: Michael Lutkenhouse  
Vice-President: Sean Conlan  
Treasurer: Crystal Lutkenhouse  
Secretary: Lori Conlan

**Bugle staff:**  
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**Ads:** Mary Moyer (Box 98)

**Subscriptions:** Jane Salomon (Box 227)     **Distribution:** Peggy Pratt  
First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: [www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager Notes

*Leaves.* Leaf collection will be finished for the year at the end of December. Chances are you will have a few leaves left over after that date. You can either pile them up in a corner of your yard for composting (the Town Office has composting bins available for free—stop by and pick one up), or bag the leaves for the yard waste pickup the first Monday in January (Jan. 6). Please use the paper yard waste bags. And if you miss the scheduled Christmas tree pickup on January 6, just put your tree out, and we will take it away.

*Snow.* We have already had an early snowfall and are likely to have much more. Thank you for remembering that it is especially important to try to park off the streets when snow is expected so that the town crew can clear them curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed. If you have a special need for your driveway to be open—medical supplies, caregiver services, etc.—please call the office and let us know, so that we can see that your driveway is among the first to have the plowed snow pushed aside.

Also remember that Argyle Avenue is closed for sledding when the snow falls. Be especially careful where Argyle meets Rokeby at Wells Park.

*Holiday fund.* I would like to thank the many residents who have generously given tips to the Montgomery County Sanitation employees who take away our trash, recyclables, and yard waste—and remind you that it is not too late to make a donation. We typically receive numerous contributions after Christmas and make a second “New Year” distribution to these deserving individuals. Please mail your check to PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office.

*Trash, recycling, and large items.* Trash and recycling pickups will take place on the usual days through the holidays. Please be sure to break down gift boxes to help the recycling crew. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, January 4.

*Christmas trees.* If you miss the scheduled pickup on Monday, January 6, the Town’s Maintenance Department will collect Christmas trees as they are put out after that date. The trees

will be chipped, so please remove as much tinsel as possible to keep our woodchip pile clean.

*Town Dinner:* The date for the annual Town Dinner is Saturday, January 25. Please save the date!

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year’s from all of us who work for you as town employees. We are always looking for ways to improve our service—suggestions are welcome!

Finally, in these winter months it is often hard for some of the town’s residents to get out. Please try to be particularly alert for a friend or neighbor who might need a little extra support this time of year. If we here at the office can help out, please call or drop by.

Gene Swearingen, Garrett-park@comcast.net, 301-933-7488

Help Support Our Piano!

In February, at two events at the Town Hall, we plan to raise funds for work on the town’s 7-foot Yamaha grand piano. The piano is not as aged as the building, but there are signs of wear, mostly in an increasingly brassy tone and uneven touch. If left unrestored, the sound quality and the “feel” will continue to deteriorate. Luckily, there are some simple fixes for these ailments, costing only a few hundred dollars. Please mark your calendars for these events:

On Sunday, February 2, at 4 pm, Barbara Collier and Sue Petito will repeat “Shakespeare in Song,” their program of songs and arias inspired by Shakespeare. If you missed it the first time, please come. (If you didn’t, please come again!)

On Saturday, February 8, from 7 to 10 pm, GP Jams Coffee House will present “The Beatles!”—a 50th anniversary celebration of the Beatles’ first concert in America, which took place right here in DC. We will welcome many wonderful performers from Garrett Park and environs.

To help us restore the piano’s warm, rich singing tone, come to hear live music at the Town Hall (receptions at both!). All donations will be greatly appreciated.

as a Garrett Park resident, we'd love for you to enjoy a

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## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The *e-Bugle* is available online the Monday after the Town Council meeting. You can find it on the town Web site.
- ♪ On Saturday, December 7, at the BB&T Classic BasketBALL Gala, Children's Charities Foundations handed out one of their three "Star for Children Awards" to Jeremy Lichtenstein. Jeremy received the award for his work in founding and running his nonprofit organization: Kids In Need Distributors (KIND). In the 2012–2013 school year, KIND provided over 50,000 meals in Montgomery County to children who are on the federal Free and Reduced Meal program. KIND currently feeds over 800 children in 14 different schools within the county. Congratulations, Jeremy!
- ♪ From the PO: Mail will not be handed out to persons properly supplied with keys who can open their boxes, but who make it a practice of requesting that their mail be given to them by the window personnel.
- ♪ Tim Derstine, of our Saturday farmer's market, will be coming here every other week from January to March. He suggests e-mailing him (haresvalley@pcfreemail.com) to find out what he will be bringing and to submit an order.
- ♪ Did you see the archives display at the Post Office about the great Post Office break-in and fire of 1893? Here's more mayhem from the past: "The post office and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad depot at Garrett Park was burglarized last night between 7 and 12 o'clock. Mr. Columbus Ricketts, the station agent and postmaster, left his office at the usual time last night, taking one of the evening trains for Washington, where he made his Christmas purchases. Upon his return to the Park on the midnight train he made the discovery that his station and post office had been broken into and robbed... Mr. Ricketts estimated that his night visitors had secured about \$127 in cash and stamps." From the *Evening Star*, December 20, 1905.
- ♪ Thank you to all the town residents who parked their cars off the streets during our last snow. It made it much easier for the town crew to scrape the roadways during and after the event.

## Citizens Association Dues, 2014

It is that time of year again: Time to pay your dues for the Citizens Association!

What does the Citizens Association do?

- Town Dinner
- Fourth of July celebration
- Spooky Woods
- Screen on the Green
- Town Council candidates forum
- Lectures and meetings on topics to make your life easier

The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. You can mail your dues to the Citizens Association at Box 456 or pay in person at the Town Dinner on January 25.

## We Came, We Sang

The 31st annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest happened with rousing song on December 13 at the Town Hall. Ably led by Doug Mader and beautifully accompanied by Mee Knystautas, over 70 voices (adults and children) blended in musical harmony. Especially noted was our first-ever effort to sing the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's *Messiah*, which closed the program. Thanks must go to Jean Horan for the refreshment setup. All in all we had a goodly crowd—with a lot of children who seemed to know their songs and enjoyed the ringing of bells. We are ready for the holiday season.

Mary Moyer

## Jobs List

The Town Office maintains a list of young people interested in being hired for various jobs around town. So far this winter, three teens have signed up:

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle*. It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include names of minor children, private telephone numbers, or private e-mail addresses in the *e-Bugle*.

It's a pretty short list! If others would like to be added, call Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office (301-933-7488).



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# Sidewalks Committee

The “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) citizen advisory committee met in December. This group is neither for nor against the project, but rather is gathering all the information that residents want the Town Council to know about the project, to help in the design for the request of proposals, and to help evaluate the proposals.

Our guiding principles for selecting an engineering firm in the request for proposals are that this firm should have

- willingness to engage each individual property owner during design process;
- demonstrated experience working with “unique” neighborhoods, be they historic, heavily treed, etc.;
- a consulting arborist and/or landscape architect on team;
- experience with innovative and creative technologies and designs, such as permeable

- paving, tree root bridges, and curb cuts for storm-water management;
- willingness to think of alternatives that will fit our needs for safe routes to school; and
  - strong experience in sidewalk design using various material types, an understanding of laws/regulations of sidewalk construction, and a strong record of coming in on time and on budget.

We have also discussed that the committee will look at all the plans, and will make a recommendation to the town about moving forward once the initial designs come in.

Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings; our next meeting is January 6 at 7:30 pm in the Town Office. Our minutes will be published on the town’s Web site. Also, please feel free to e-mail us at [garrett-park-sidewalk-advisory-committee-2013@googlegroups.com](mailto:garrett-park-sidewalk-advisory-committee-2013@googlegroups.com).

## Searching for Sugar Man, January 17

GPFS presents *Searching for Sugar Man*, winner of the 2012 Academy Award for Best Documentary. The film tells the story of two South Africans who set out to find Rodriguez, a Detroit folk-singer who released two albums, unsuccessful in the 1970s, that became popular in South Africa in the 1990s during the struggle against apartheid.

The film, to be shown at 8 pm on January 17 in the Town Hall, is the first in the GP Film Society’s 2014 series and is sponsored by Adam Darkins and Laura Dickson. Admission, which is free to

Film Society members, is otherwise \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Dinner will be served at 7 pm. For details about the menu, look for the notice on the GP neighbors listserv or the poster in the Post Office lobby the week before. Cost is usually \$10 for entrée and sides. Soda, beer, and wine will also be offered at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

To join, use the GPFS membership form below, or find one at the Post Office, where you can also see the list of films in the 2014 series.

## Garrett Park Film Society, 2014 Series

Yes! I want to be a member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send notices to (check one) e-mail ☐ U.S. post ☐ both ☐

Check the level of membership you want. All levels include admission to all films and coupons that can be used for soft drinks, popcorn, and nuts (when available). Higher memberships receive more coupons.

Make check payable to “Garrett Park Film Society” or “GPFS.”

Mail form and check to Suzanne Grefsheim, GPFS Treasurer, Box 175, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

- ☐ **Gaffer, Single**    \$30    (5 coupons)
- ☐ **Gaffer, Family**    \$50    (10 coupons)
- ☐ **Screenwriter**    \$100    (20 coupons)
- ☐ **Film Sponsor**    \$250    (20 coupons; reserved front row seats for sponsored film; acknowledgement of your support)
- ☐ **Director**    \$300    (20 coupons; one glass of wine or beer per film)
- ☐ **Producer**    \$500    (20 coupons; free dinner for two for each film shown in 2014)



## Letter from the Mayor

During Thanksgiving I was reflecting upon how grateful I am to live in the town of Garrett Park, how much I appreciate its ambiance and character, and how pleased I am to be able to contribute to leading it as it moves into a future that respects and cherishes its past while acknowledging that change is inevitable and that our challenge is to shape and guide that change in productive ways. One of the aspects of our town which is special to me is that in a small town each of us has an opportunity to participate actively in our government and to be part of that change process. So while some may decry the controversy surrounding some of our proposals, I cherish it, since it represents an aspect of our town which not only sets it apart from the rest of Montgomery County and the Washington region, but actually is a continuation of the tradition of Garrett Park since its founding. Many of you are familiar with the events that led to the incorporation of the town, but all of us may benefit from reviewing them occasionally. The following is excerpted from our official town history:

"But all was not sweetness and light in the ideal suburb. Charges were made at the time and have echoed ever since that the Town of Garrett Park was incorporated for the express purpose of getting rid of Mrs. Grace E.D. Sprigg's indoor plumbing. That charge is essentially correct.

"A serious outbreak of waterborne typhoid, striking over 14,000 people, occurred in 1898 in Philadelphia; and, closer to home, typhoid had been reported in Takoma Park. Fear that Mrs. Sprigg's cesspool would contaminate their wells moved the town fathers to act to rid themselves of that danger, and the Town of Garrett Park was incorporated in May 1898 by a Special Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. Pursuant to its charter, the Town immediately elected a Mayor and a four-man Council...

"Then the Council got down to business. First it set up procedures to enforce ordinances... Next, the Council established sanitary regulations for the Town. These regulations provided that all premises within the corporate limits must be provided with a privy, said privy to be provided with

a watertight receptacle above ground that could be easily opened to be cleaned once a month, or oftener, if necessary. No person could construct, use, or maintain 'a cesspool, privy sink, vault, or other depository of filth.'

"The first order of the first Town Council of Garrett Park was, accordingly, aimed at Mrs. Sprigg's cesspool... She was ordered to stop. She did not! Health Officer Soleau was ordered to sever the connection to the cesspool...

"Mr. Soleau reported that he had... Mrs. Sprigg promptly reconnected it, and Mrs. Sprigg sued the Town for interfering with her use of her property. Thus began the first of the Town's many legal engagements. For the next 13 months the Sprigg cesspool occupied hours of Council time, covered pages of minutes, and consumed a substantial amount of money. During one of the trials, a Judge Brent, whose property adjoined that of the Spriggs, testified not only that property values in Garrett Park had declined because of Mrs. Sprigg's cesspool but that his wife's health had suffered from the contamination of their well."

The result of the litigation was that the town's ordinance was ruled legal, Mrs. Sprigg's plumbing connection was again severed, and soon thereafter the Sprigg family left town. So in the current discussions we are not only demonstrating the value of democracy in action in a small town, but we are continuing a rich tradition of concern about change, a desire to maintain our historic character, and noisy expression of differences of opinion as to how to accomplish those ends as we accommodate the forces which drive change.

As I look forward to the holidays and the coming new year, I again reflect upon the fact that Garrett Park is a very special place, a town which I love, with people whom I care about, and the source of a vibrancy which makes it an interesting place to live. On behalf of the entire Town Council and the town staff, I wish you happy holidays, a wonderful New Year, and peace and contentment, even in the face of controversy.

Peter Benjamin

David Altar  
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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## Joan Mary Lynch: A Son's Reminiscences

My mother, Joan Mary Lynch, who died on July 27 of advanced Alzheimer's disease, was born in Washington, D.C., on November 1, 1923, to parents Col. George Lynch and Dorothy Pistor. She grew up in Wesley Heights in Northwest, which hugs the Palisades and Spring Valley neighborhoods. As she recalled to me, in those days children could roam free far and wide, which she did with her group of loyal friends. Joan attended public, Catholic, and private schools including Horace Mann, Immaculata, and Mount Vernon in Virginia. She was a happy, social girl.

Mom devoted her professional work to teaching and supporting young children. She worked at several day care centers in both richer and poorer areas of Washington. She also became director at several, including Sergeant in Southeast and St. Alban's Day Care Center in Northwest (on the grounds of the National Cathedral). St. Alban's Day Care, as I knew so well, saw children of all backgrounds economically, ethnically and in terms of family make-up. That's how Mom wanted it. Sliding scale fees were offered. Several of my classmates from Beauvoir and St. Albans School passed through the center. Mom hired good teachers, assured healthy but good food, and maintained a learning and playful curriculum. St. Alban's Day Care to me was truly the best, and I was so proud of her when I roamed the halls there as a boy. The center was in the parish house of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. As Mom was one of the pioneers of Head Start, she never distanced herself too much from the population she served.

At Green Acres School, in Rockville, Maryland, she befriended a teacher under whom she was the assistant and who later became director of the school: Jane Beals. The two became inseparable as friends and later lived on a small farm in Montgomery County with horses, goats, and chickens. Mom always loved animals, especially horses and dogs. At our home at 11200 Rokeby Avenue, there was never a day when we didn't have three dogs and three cats. My sister, brother, and I joked that when it came to hierarchy of power in the Lynch household, animals ranked above children! She especially loved golden retrievers as we had more of these than any other dogs.

Mom had had four foster children before adopting us three. For Mom, assigning us chores like raking leaves and washing the bathrooms regularly was as ordinary as eating a PB&J sandwich. Going with her on errands and, especially, riding with her daily to and from school/work likely contributed to our closeness (and perhaps added friction too). We always listened to easy listening or the news on the car radio. She sent me to good private schools for my

education. Mom was an avid reader and could finish an Agatha Christie novel in three hours. I remember the many days she dragged me to the library so she could take out 10 to 12 books for the week.

The most interesting part of Mom's early life was her nine round trips to England by ship, on stays that lasted from May to November. During that period, she stayed with her mother's relatives and lived a rather comfortable existence. Mom loved the transatlantic ship rides, as she would run around the whole boat. These were large vessels as they were designed mostly for traveling, not vacationing. Many got seasick, but not Mom! She recalled to me a funeral once by sea where the wind was so bad that the ashes blew back onto the deck! But Mom was close to her father and always looked forward to coming back to America.

Mom never married but came close. When on the farm, she fell in love with another farmer who she thought loved her equally but instead went off with another woman. However, she had had several marriage proposals which she turned down because, as she told me, of her phobias (she got a lot of counseling for these). But Mom and Jane made family a big thing for us three. It was wonderful enough to grow up in a town where kids could truly be kids, but she made birthdays and holidays like Christmas special. We cut down our own trees, and minutes after the last present was opened we were writing thank-you notes to our givers. We as a family had meaningful friends like Jane, Pat Moffett who once owned a convenience store at the post office, Barry Rosloff across the street who took me on like a son, the Seferlises, and Vera Hall, who built the house we lived in. We made a trip to Baltimore every Sunday for a handful of years to visit Jane and her sister Josephine. Jane and Jo died over 20 years ago.

After retiring in 1994, Mom kept active till her death. She took the dogs out to fields up Strathmore Avenue and did laundry for a local family/women's shelter. She was old-fashioned (didn't go for new, glossy things like clothes and jewelry... she didn't even drink!) and was a great fan of old British sitcoms like "Fawlty Towers" and "Are You Being Served."

Before entering an assisted living place in Silver Spring in 2009, where she got excellent care and maintained her fiery disposition (!), Mom was cared for and loved by a live-in caretaker, Dora, who came to adore her. As I made my long trips out to see her, I could also tell that she still had life yet to live. As David and I watched her last breaths on that Saturday, we saw someone who, at nearly 90, still kept a youthful flare. At her death, we spread her ashes in Rock Creek Park.

Patrick Beals Lynch